

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 12, 16, 21-24, 27-28, 32, 39, and 41 as indicated below, wherein deleted material is shown by strikethrough and added material is underlined. A complete listing of claims pending in the application following entry of this Amendment are presented as follows:

1-11. (Cancelled)

12. (Currently Amended) A method of manufacturing blow-molding a fluid-filled chamber for an article of footwear, the method comprising steps of:

positioning a parison between a first portion and a corresponding second portion of a mold, the first portion and the second portion of the mold defining a cavity with a shape of the chamber;

shaping opposite sides of the parison to form the chamber within a cavity in the mold, the cavity having a shape of the chamber the cavity, the chamber having a first surface, an opposite second surface, and a sidewall extending between the first surface and the second surface; and

bonding the opposite sides of the parison together to define a parting line with a non-linear configuration, at least a portion of the parting line being non-centrally located with respect to a first surface to an opposite second surface of the chamber in the sidewall of the chamber, the parting line having at least a first part that is adjacent the first surface, a second part that is adjacent the second surface, and a third part that extends from the first part to the second part.

13. (Cancelled)

14. (Previously Presented) The method recited in claim 12, wherein the step of bonding includes imparting a non-linear and wave-like configuration to the parting line.

15. (Original) The method recited in claim 12, further including a step of providing the mold to have protrusions formed on one of the first portion and the second portion and indentations

formed in the other of the first portion and the second portion, the indentations being positioned to receive the protrusions.

16. (Currently Amended) The method recited in claim 15, wherein the step of providing the mold includes locating surfaces of the indentations and protrusions separate from areas surfaces of the mold that form the chamber.

17. (Original) The method recited in claim 15, further including a step of bending the parison with the protrusions and the indentations.

18. (Original) The method recited in claim 17, wherein the step of bending the parison includes extending the parison around the protrusions and into the indentations.

19. (Original) The method recited in claim 12, wherein the step of shaping includes forming the chamber to have a plurality of lobes that extend outward from a central area of the chamber.

20. (Original) The method recited in claim 12, wherein the step of shaping includes forming the chamber such that at least one of the first surface and the second surface of the chamber has a curved configuration.

21. (Currently Amended) A method of manufacturing blow-molding a fluid-filled chamber for an article of footwear, the method comprising steps of:

positioning a parison between a first portion and a corresponding second portion of a mold, the parison having a first side that faces the first portion, and the parison having a second side that faces the second portion;

~~bending the parison with contours of the mold as the first portion and the second portion translate toward each other;~~

shaping the parison to define a first surface, a second surface, and a sidewall of the chamber, ~~at least a first area of the sidewall being formed from the first side, the first area extending from the first surface to the second surface, and at least a~~

~~second area of the sidewall being formed from the second side, the second area also extending from the first surface to the second surface; and~~

bonding the first side of the parison to the second side of the parison to form a parting line with a non-linear configuration between the first side and the second side of the parison, the parting line being at least partially located within the sidewall, and the parting line having a portion that extends from the first surface to the second surface of the chamber.

22. (Currently Amended) The method recited in claim 21, further including a step of providing the mold such that the contours are shaping the mold to include protrusions formed on one of the first portion and the second portion, and the contours are shaping the mold to include indentations formed in the other of the first portion and the second portion, the indentations being positioned to receive the protrusions.

23. (Currently Amended) The method recited in claim 22, wherein the step of providing the mold includes locating surfaces of the indentations and protrusions separate from areas surfaces of the mold that form the chamber.

24. (Currently Amended) The method recited in claim 22, wherein the step of bending the parison includes further including a step of bending the parison with the protrusions and the indentations as the first portion and the second portion translate toward each other and extending the parison around the protrusions and into the indentations.

25. (Original) The method recited in claim 21, wherein the step of shaping includes forming the chamber to have a plurality of lobes that extend outward from a central area of the chamber.

26. (Original) The method recited in claim 21, wherein the step of shaping includes forming the chamber such that at least one surface of the chamber has a curved configuration.

27. (Currently Amended) The method recited in claim 21, wherein the step of bonding includes forming the parting line to extend from the first surface to the second surface of the chamber

have portions positioned adjacent the first surface and other portions positioned adjacent the second surface.

28. (Currently Amended) The method recited in claim 21, wherein the step of bonding includes forming the parting line to ~~extend between the first area and the second area~~ have a wave-like configuration that extends alternately and repeatedly from the first surface to the second surface and from the second surface to the first surface.

29. (Cancelled)

30. (Original) The method recited in claim 21, wherein the step of bonding includes non-centrally locating the parting line with respect to the first surface and the second surface of the chamber.

31. (Previously Presented) The method recited in claim 21, wherein the step of bonding includes imparting a non-linear and wave-like configuration to the parting line.

32. (Currently Amended) A method of manufacturing blow-molding a fluid-filled chamber for an article of footwear, the method comprising steps of:

providing a mold having a first portion and a corresponding second portion, one of the first portion and the second portion including protrusions, and the other of the first portion and the second portion including indentations that receive the protrusions, the indentations and the protrusions being having surfaces that are located separate from areas surfaces of the mold that form the chamber;

positioning a parison between the first portion and the second portion of the mold, the parison having a first side that faces the first portion and the parison having a second side that faces the second portion;

bending the parison around the protrusions and into the indentations as the first portion and the second portion translate toward each other and contact the parison;

shaping the parison to form a first surface from the first side and a second surface from the second side, the first side and the second side being interlaced to form at least a portion of a sidewall of the chamber; and bonding opposite sides of the parison together.

33. (Original) The method recited in claim 32, wherein the step of shaping includes forming the chamber to have a plurality of lobes that extend outward from a central area of the chamber.

34. (Original) The method recited in claim 32, wherein the step of shaping includes forming the chamber such that at least one surface of the chamber has a curved configuration.

35. (Original) The method recited in claim 32, wherein the step of bonding includes defining a parting line between the opposite sides of the parison.

36. (Previously Presented) The method recited in claim 35, wherein the step of bonding includes forming the parting line to extend between the interlaced first side and second side.

37. (Previously Presented) The method recited in claim 35, wherein the step of bonding includes forming the parting line to extend from the first surface to the second surface of the chamber.

38. (Original) The method recited in claim 35, wherein the step of bonding includes imparting a non-linear configuration to the parting line.

39. (Currently Amended) The method recited in claim 35, wherein the step of bonding includes non-centrally locating the parting line ~~with respect to the first surface and the second surface of the chamber to have at least a first part that is adjacent the first surface, a second part that is adjacent the second surface, and a third part that extends from the first part to the second part.~~

40. (Previously Presented) The method recited in claim 35, wherein the step of bonding includes imparting a non-linear and wave-like configuration to the parting line.

41. (Currently Amended) A method of ~~manufacturing~~ blow-molding a fluid-filled chamber for an article of footwear, the method comprising steps of:

positioning a parison between a first portion and a corresponding second portion of a mold;

bending the parison with contours of the mold as the first portion and the second portion translate toward each other, the contours of the mold being having surfaces that are positioned separate from surfaces of a cavity within the mold, the cavity having a shape of the chamber;

shaping opposite sides of the parison to form the chamber within the cavity; and

bonding the opposite sides of the parison together to define a parting line with a ~~non-linear configuration between the opposite sides of the parison with a portion that extends from a first side to an opposite second side of the bladder.~~